



## MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

20820 River Road, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 1Z7

Phone 604.467.5551 / Fax 604.467.9825

**Principal: Mme Donna Servant**

**Vice Principal: Mrs. Lisa Kania**

## OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

The autumn days are getting shorter, but the air feels refreshing and the evenings are cozy. As Thanksgiving approaches I reflect on how fortunate I am. There are so many things to be thankful for! I feel so fortunate to live in the lower mainland where I can enjoy spectacular views of mountains and lush greenery every day. I love my house and that I live in such a friendly neighbourhood. Maple Ridge indeed feels like home and I'm grateful to have lived here for twenty years. I frequent so many small businesses where I am always greeted by name.

I'm grateful for a wonderful family that spends many hours sharing stories and laughing. I am grateful that even though one of my children is in Australia, we can facetime anytime! Seriously, my list could go on and on. But I'll end with how happy and proud I feel to work with children every day. They never cease to make me smile and always remind me what a wonderful world it really is.



The fall is always such a busy time in school as we celebrate many occasions and endeavor to develop rich and meaningful programs for all learners. All of MRE's staff enjoyed a range of opportunities on the recent Curriculum Day. Librarians worked together on literacy initiatives, many educators met at Thomas Haney to enjoy a wide range of workshops. Several of us at MRE collaborated to examine new resources that connect to First Nations perspectives, French Immersion Programming, and shared creative ways to engage young learners. This incorporated looking at hands-on activities and how children can work together to learn from each other, and reach a common goal. In addition to this designated professional development day, several staff members attended a literacy conference on the last weekend of the month, and another group will be attending the French Immersion conference on another weekend, later in October.

MRE is very fortunate to have secured a full complement of qualified teachers again this year. I'm sure you are aware of the province-wide shortage of educators. Our district has been working very hard to recruit teachers with the highest qualifications from all over the country. We are extending a warm welcome to our newest French Immersion teacher, Mme Lendvoy, who will be starting at MRE on October 9 teaching Division 17. World Educator's Day is on October 5 and I am very grateful to our team for their dedication and commitment to excellence in teaching.



The month ahead brings many new opportunities. Several classes are going on field trips this month: Pumpkin Patch, Eagle Acres Dairy, The Apple Barn, and Stave Falls to name a few. The district cross-country run takes place on October 23 and October 24 for students in grades 1 through 7. And we wrap up October with our traditional Monster Mash on Halloween Day. Parents and guardians are invited to join us as our students parade their costumes and we come together to celebrate Halloween.

MRE continues to promote the ethics of respect and kindness throughout our teachings. These values are written on our walls and remind us that building positive relationships is at the core of a community's success. Please join us at our next PAC meeting on October 9 at 7:00. We have an amazing school because we know that working together we can create a wonderful world for today and tomorrow. Wishing you all a joyful Thanksgiving celebration with your families.

Mme Servant  
Principal

Mrs. Kania  
Vice Principal



Thanksgiving Day, Monday Oct 8<sup>th</sup>  
Provincial Wide Non-Instructional Day  
Friday October 19<sup>h</sup>  
No School for Students

### **STUDENT VERIFICATION INFORMATION FORMS**

We have sent home Student Information Sheets with each student the week of September 17th. This is a printout of the contact information and phone numbers we have on record for your child. Please be sure to make any necessary changes on the sheet and return it to your child's teacher.

### **STUDENTS LATE OR ABSENT**

If your child is going to be absent from school or late for any reason, please remember to call the school at **(604) 467-5551**. An answering service is available 24 hours a day 7 days per week for your convenience. You can also report your child's absence on the parent portal. If we do not have confirmation of absence from home, the office will contact the numbers we have available.

### **STUDENT PHOTOS**

Photo Express will be at our school September 26<sup>th</sup> to take individual student photos. Don't forget to bring your smiles! Retakes will be on October 18 in the morning.

### **DRESS FOR THE WEATHER**

Students will be outside for recess and lunch most days. We ask that parents ensure their children are dressed appropriately for our rainy west coast weather with a coat, boots and umbrella if necessary. Students must keep a spare change of clothes in their backpacks.

### **PARENT PORTAL**

If you are not yet on the parent portal, please pop into the office and we will help you do this as it's the most efficient way for parents and guardians to get current information from the school.

Please submit fees for supplies and planners on the portal.

Please complete consent forms that are listed on the portal as soon as possible. We require consents in order to publish any student photos in newsletters, on our website, in our year book, or to share with the Board. We also require consent for classes that do nature walks off school grounds. Your earliest attention to this allows us to enhance publications that share all the wonderful things that are happening at MRE!

### **HEAD LICE**

To prevent head lice among children at school, we ask that you remind your child to not share personal items such as combs, brushes or hats, and that you check your child's head regularly for the presence of head lice. Early detection and appropriate treatment will significantly reduce head lice in our school. For more information on how to detect and treat head lice please visit our website: <http://schools.sd42.ca/mre/health-tips/>

## **STUDENT SAFETY**

Please remember to wear a helmet when riding your bike, scooter or rollerblading and please walk on school property.

## **VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS**

In the interest of safety and security it is imperative that we know who is in our school at all times. If you need to drop something off for your child or are volunteering in the school, please check in at the office and wear a visitor tag.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

As we continue to reduce our paper consumption, most school publications will be sent home via the parent portal. Newsletters and other pertinent information will also continue to be updated on our school website: <http://mre.sd42.ca/>

Newsletters are published on the first school day of the month.

## **B.C. TRAINING & EDUCATION SAVINGS GRANT**

Did you know children born in 2009 or later can qualify for a \$1,200 grant when they are signed up for a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP)? No RESP contribution is required. Visit the [British Columbia Training and Education Savings Grant web page](#) for more information or email [BCTESG@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCTESG@gov.bc.ca).

## **SD42 NEWS: HOSPITAL HOMEBOUND SUPPORT**

Do you have a son or daughter who is ill or injured and unable to attend school?

School District No. 42 provides support to students who are unable to attend school for medical reasons. The Hospital Homebound teacher works with elementary and secondary students who have not been allocated support teacher time through a special needs designation. Students may be absent due to a non-contagious illness or they may be recovering from surgery or an injury. Instruction is provided in Ridge-Meadows Hospital or in the student's home.

The Hospital Homebound teacher provides direct instruction and support to students, with the goal of helping them return to class with as little interruption to their education as possible. The teacher also helps students maintain connections with the people and programs at their school. While receiving Hospital Homebound support, students continue to be registered at their school and in their classes. Students work on the core academic subjects. They often use the same materials and complete many of the same assignments as their classmates, although some adaptations may be necessary depending on the child's illness. Students typically receive two to three hours of support each week.

Homebound students qualify for support if they are absent from school for 10 consecutive school days. Students who are hospitalized can be referred upon admittance to Ridge-Meadows Hospital.

Contact your child's teacher, counsellor, or administrator. He/she will complete the Learning Services referral form. A physician's authorization form is also required (available at the school). For more information contact Marc Beaudet, the Hospital Homebound Teacher, at 467-1101, or by email at [mbeaudet@sd42.ca](mailto:mbeaudet@sd42.ca).

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PAC**

Welcome Back students, staff and families. I hope you all had a wonderful summer! I'd like to welcome the new families to MRE! You'll find that our little community is a fabulous one full of kindness, generosity and fun. You couldn't have picked a better school for your child.

A huge thank you to all the parents that came out to help with the pancake breakfast. It was a huge success and the children loved it! MRE Parents Associate Committee (PAC) meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month in the library at 7pm. The meetings are usually an hour, but sometimes go over a bit. We offer free babysitting too, so if you need to bring your children please send me a message so we have enough students to watch your little ones. Please come and give your input, and know just because you come, doesn't mean we'll put you to work. Aside from being a presence at the school, one of the main jobs of the Parents Advisory Council is to bring in new and exciting equipment and programs to the school. This of course cannot be done without the many fundraisers the PAC does throughout the year. Now, we certainly do not expect every family to participate in all the fundraisers, but we hope that everyone finds something for them.



And of course the Fundraising cannot be done without Volunteers! Volunteers are always needed. Whether it be for an hour to help with hot lunch, to take on a small job, or a big one if you want. WE NEED YOUR HELP! I encourage every parent to volunteer once this year. Your kids love seeing your faces in the school, and there are opportunities for all times of the day. *"Many hands make light work"*.

Please let me know if you would like to be added to our Parent email list to get information of things happening in our school or join the MRE Parents page of Facebook!

I'm looking forward to another fantastic year at MRE. Please feel free to contact me with any feedback or concerns you may have. I'm a firm believer that it takes a village to raise exceptional children, and look forward to working with you all. **Our next PAC meeting is Tuesday October 9th at 7:00 in the Library!**

Love that Deal order forms have gone home! Sell them to your neighbors and family!

**Vessy's Bulbs-** plant them now, forget they're there, and you get a beautiful surprise come spring!

**Art Cards-** your child will be creating a fabulous piece of art in class. They will then be sent home with an order form for you to purchase cards or lots of other great gifts and goodies if you desire!

**MRE'S Shopping Extravaganza!** Friday November 16! If you're a home-based business, crafter or vendor or know anyone that would like to participate, please email Dallas Bell at [ddal.las@shaw.ca](mailto:ddal.las@shaw.ca). We will also need volunteers to set up and take down and throughout the event. Please contact Dallas if you're available to help.

**Scholastic Book Fair-** once again the Book fair will be at the shopping night and days around it! Your child will have an opportunity to go with their class and make a wish list! If you'd like to send money with your child to shop, you're welcome to do so.

We accept donations of wrapping paper, gift bags, tape, and tissue in preparation for the Christmas Santa Mall. You can bring donated items to the school there is a box in the front hall across from the office. More information will follow in the next newsletter.

Sabrina Harker

-PAC Chair      [sabrinaharker@hotmail.com](mailto:sabrinaharker@hotmail.com)

# The Redesigned Curriculum at *Maple Ridge Elementary*

## ***How has the curriculum been redesigned & how does this benefit student learning?***

The BC curriculum has been redesigned to support the changing world students are entering. The redesigned curriculum is student-centered and flexible, maintains a focus on literacy and numeracy skills, and includes Aboriginal perspectives.

So how and what will your child be learning? Each month in our school newsletter we will highlight a key feature of the redesigned curriculum and share stories about how this feature is being implemented in your child's classroom. We will also tell you about why these skills and abilities will help your child succeed.

Kindergarten to Grade 10 teachers are now using the new curriculum in all our schools. The redesigned curriculum for Grades 11-12 will be introduced in 2019/20. For more information about the new curriculum, visit <http://www.sd42.ca/new-curriculum>.

## **Coming in NOVEMBER - Core Competencies**

Students at Maple Ridge Elementary participate in a variety of multi-age settings. Here, grade 6 and 7 students work with French Kindergarteners. They are exploring English and French books of interest. Students learn to work together in a collaborative manner that supports the development of social competencies.



### ***Core Competencies: What are they and why are they in the new curriculum?***

*The new curriculum centres around the following three core competency areas: **communication, personal and social, thinking**. They are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep learning and life-long learning. Competencies are evident in every area of learning and in every grade, and come into play when students become actively engaged in their learning. During the school year, students will have an opportunity to self-assess their proficiencies in these core competencies.*

# October Maple Ridge Elementary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Assembly at 8:45am Intermediate Choir Practice 2:20 (Stage)	3 Div. 10 & 13 Eagle Acres Field Trip	4 Intermediate Choir Practice 2:20 (Stage)	5 	6
7	8 Thanksgiving Day No school for students	9 PAC Meeting - 7:00 in the library.	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Shake Out Drill 1:20 Intermediate Choir Practice 2:20 (Stage)	17	18 Photo Retakes Intermediate Choir Practice 2:20	19 Non-Instructional Day <b>No school for students</b>	20
21	22 Div. 16 & 17 Pumpkin Patch 9:30-11:00	23 Intermediate Cross Country Intermediate Choir Practice 2:20 (Stage)	24 Div. 19 Field Trip Apple Barn	25 Dental Screening (Kindergarten) Intermediate Choir Practice 2:20 (Stage)	26	27
28	29	30 Intermediate Choir Practice 2:20 (Stage)	31 Halloween Monster Mash 12:45 Gr.6/7 dance 11:00am-12:00pm			